

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90143-10365

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 100-370750-NR

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 54460 Date:
10-04-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : LA
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 04/08/1942
PAGES : 25

SUBJECTS :

HERBERT BIBERMAN
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/09/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : RPT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

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FILE NO 100-6769

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 4/8/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/27-3/29/42	REPORT MADE BY J. R. VICARS 1t
TITLE HERBERT BIBERMAN; JOHN HOWARD LAWSON		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <i>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE</i>		STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL <i>6/10/95 Classified by SP6 by JF Declassify on: OADR</i>	
<p>BIBERMAN directed strategy behind Russian War Relief rally held 3/24/42 at Los Angeles. He wrote pamphlet advertising same and held continual conferences with DIMITRI TIOMKIN, director of the rally. He further directed MADELINE RUTHVEN to contact unknown union leader to get support of union. BIBERMAN further directed RUTHVEN to carry out his prearranged sight-seeing tour for the Captain of a Russian ship in port and members of the Russian Consulate in Los Angeles. BIBERMAN also directed that publicity concerning the arrival of Russian military attache be released to the People's World, Communist news organ on the West Coast. BIBERMAN procured pertinent Russian history book from Russian Consulate for LOUIS HARRIS, writer, which is to be basis for a screen play. GALE SONDERGAARD refused invitation by known Communist to speak at IWO after conferring with husband. <i>7</i> Telegram sent by SONDERGAARD to president of Mexico urging no deportation for anti-Fascists cited. LAWSON presently employed by CECIL B. DEMILLE as writer. Informant able to secure Communist propaganda from him. Subjects' bank accounts checked. <i>10</i> Results of mail cover set out and cover renewed. <i>10</i> <i>[u]</i></p> <p><i>Classified by SP6 by JF Declassify on: OADR</i></p>			
- P -			
REFERENCE:	Report of Special Agent J. R. VICARS, Los Angeles, 3/4/42.		
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		100-370750-1	
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with supplies for the Russian people. It should be noted that these were distributed not only by Russian War Relief Association but by the Communist Party as well. [Copies of these were obtained by Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #150, a representative number being retained in this file.] (S)(u)

(S)(u) The identity of the aforementioned union leader has not been ascertained; however, JIM BURFORD, a known Communist whose Communist Party book number can be obtained from Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #3, represented the CIO has head of the Russian War Relief Committee of the CIO at the rally on March 24, 1942. Further, as will be shown subsequently in this report, BURFORD was active with DIMITRI TIOMKIN in the Russian War Relief office in organizing this rally. Further investigation is being made through Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #2 in an attempt to identify this union leader.

On March 10, 1942 DIMITRI TIOMKIN and BIBERMAN held a conference and TIOMKIN advised BIBERMAN that JANE and he had just called New York to determine through the Russian War Relief offices there if it would be possible to get Madame LITVINOV or DOROTHY THOMPSON for the rally. DIMITRI stated that she had talked to MORRIS (general administrator of Russian War Relief in New York) and MORRIS advised sending a telegram to Madame LITVINOV with many prominent names on it and maybe she would come. TIOMKIN stated that he had also talked with EDWARD CARTER, whom, he stated, had pneumonia and was dangerously ill. CARTER had told JANE, TIOMKIN stated, that TIOMKIN was the person who could induce Madame LITVINOV to come if anyone could. DIMITRI then told BIBERMAN that he and JANE had tried to call someone, apparently Madame LITVINOV, "But that she would not be in until tomorrow morning". (S)(u)

DIMITRI also stated that DAVID FARIES, president of the Russian War Relief Association of Southern California, had promised to take the responsibility to get the big names and to send Madame LITVINOV a telegram. (S)(u)

BIBERMAN then asked DIMITRI what he was doing about the letters, apparently referring to letters written to prominent people encouraging them to donate to this campaign. DIMITRI told him that everything was going fine and that HARRY BENNETT, Russian War Relief publicity director, was attempting to get in the studio and also planning a radio program. BIBERMAN told TIOMKIN that the fact that CARTER and MORRIS were so enthusiastic should give DIMITRI a great deal of encouragement. DIMITRI further advised HERBERT that JANE was attempting to plan a reception for a certain lady, who apparently is rather well respected; and after some lengthy conversation with Mrs. RATHBORNE to have her as hostess or to act in some capacity for this event; however, this informant was unable to obtain sufficient information concerning this proposed reception. (S)(u)

On the same date DIMITRI was again in contact with BIBERMAN and advised that BORIS INGSTER, JANE MEADE, MR. ARNOLD and FARIES had held a (S)(u)

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BIBERMAN, in further consultations with HARRIS, stated that "they" think that PARLE'S book is the best. "They" undoubtedly refers to the Russian Consulate at Los Angeles, with whom it is evident BIBERMAN discussed the matter prior to referring HARRIS to the proper book. Hence it would appear that at least in this particular instance BIBERMAN was the go-between in procuring Russian propaganda for a script, which will probably be produced as a movie. Should BIBERMAN be further affiliated in either procuring other background for this proposed script or should he in any way become concerned with it further, it will be developed in subsequent reports. (c)(u)

During the period of this report GALE SONDERGAARD had been contacted by members of two Communist front organizations and invited to lecture to them. On March 1, 1942 FREDA FONTIVITZ (phonetic), telephone CHArleston 6-6594, contacted HERBERT BIBERMAN and advised him that she represented the Hollywood Womens Council and wanted GALE to give a lecture entitled "Women in Defense" in one of the series of chain luncheons which was to be held the following Saturday at 2:00 P.M. At this meeting, FONTIVITZ stated, one hundred and fifty ladies would be present, including four of the Russian medical aides. GALE later recontacted FONTIVITZ and advised she could not make a personal appearance at this meeting, stating she had a first aid class at the same hour on Saturday. (c)(u)

Again on March 2, 1942, HANNA SCHWARTZ contacted GALE and asked her if she would speak at a women's mass meeting on Brooklyn Avenue on March 8. HANNA advised GALE that there would be a number of IWO clubs present and several other organizations. She asked GALE to speak on the subject of "Women's place in the World". GALE advised HANNA that she would check her schedule to see if she could make this appearance and requested HANNA to contact her later on the same day; however, when HANNA recontacted GALE, GALE stated she had talked to her husband and "It seems we are occupied that evening so I can't accept the invitation." (c)(u)

The file entitled "COMMUNIST PARTY, LOS ANGELES AREA", number 100-1763, reflects that one HANNA SCHWARTZ is the wife of LOUIS SCHWARTZ, president of the Newsboys Union - CIO, who is prominently connected with the Communist Party in Los Angeles. Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #150, whose identity has been made known to the Bureau, has advised this office that HANNA SCHWARTZ is also an active member of the Los Angeles Communist Party and a close friend of PETTIS PERRY, chairman of the Los Angeles County Communist Party. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Auxiliary Council of the CIO and is a member of the committee of the Consumers Union and also very active in the American Peace Mobilization. (c)(u)

Attention is invited to the fact that this HANNA SCHWARTZ may be the one who consulted with GALE SONDERGAARD and it is further noted that BIBERMAN consulted with GALE before she gave a final decision in the matter, lending credence to the belief that BIBERMAN wishes not only himself but his wife to remain in the background of known Communist contacts and organizations. GALE SONDERGAARD is still active in the Womens Ambulance. (c)(u)

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Defense Corps, and a full page of pictures of GALE, including one in her WADC uniform, appeared in the Los Angeles Evening Herald and Express March 5, 1942. Two of these full length pictures are being retained in the file for identification purposes. (c)(4)

Also during the period of this report it has come to the attention of the Los Angeles Office that GALE SONDERGAARD was one of many people from the movie industry who sent telegrams to the president of Mexico objecting to his proposed deportation of several Spanish children between the ages of fifteen and twenty-one. The People's World described these Spaniards as being anti-Fascist and conducted a campaign urging American citizens to wire the president of Mexico in their behalf.

Further, Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #1357 advised the writer that ED ROBBIN, known Communist member and sponsor of the World Forum, on March 29, 1942, publicly urged the audience at the World Forum to direct "such terms of intercession to the president of Mexico on behalf of these anti-Fascist people". The fact that GALE SONDERGAARD also sent one reflects that in this one instance, at least, she has followed the so-called Communist Party line. (c)(4)

It is further interesting to note in this connection that the People's World of April 5, 1942 reflects that the president of Mexico granted these Spanish deportees one year of grace for their final deportation.

During the past month JOHN HOWARD LAWSON has secured a position as writer for CECIL B. DeMILLE at a Hollywood studio. Temporary Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #3 stated that LAWSON leaves his home every morning at approximately 9:30 A.M. and reappears at approximately 4:30 or 5:00 P.M. During this pertinent period, also, this informant has procured a copy of the "Soviet Power" written by the Dean of Canterbury and a pamphlet entitled "Information Bulletin", published by the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics celebrating the twenty-fourth anniversary of the "Great October Socialist Revolution". In this pamphlet are various messages sent to STALIN by American people, congratulating him on the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Revolution. Included in this booklet are messages from THEODORE DREISER, WALTER DURANTY, JOSEPH CURRAN, FRANZ BOAS, UPTON SINCLAIR, and also PETTIS PERRY, who is described therein as "Chairman Soviet Anniversary meeting in Los Angeles", but who is known to the Los Angeles Office and the Bureau as chairman of the Los Angeles County Communist Party.

Concerning the magazine "Soviet Power", attention is invited to the fact that the Communist Party in Los Angeles distributed over seventy thousand copies in this area alone and has stated at their meetings that "Comrades should see to it that the public receives this publication." Both of these publications are being retained in the file of this case.

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SOURCES

The name of Temporary Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #3 is WALTER TETER, whose identity has previously been made known to the Bureau.

Temporary Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #5 is WALTER N. BOLMAN, Treasurer, Russian War Relief Association of Southern California and vice-president of the Union Bank and Trust Company, Los Angeles.

Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #1357 is Mrs. GENE KATZENBERGER, on whom a separate memorandum is being transmitted to the Bureau. (C)(u)

All other sources referred to in this report are identical with Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #100. (C)(u)

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